

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are pending in the current application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment that all certified copies pertaining to foreign priority claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119 have been received, and the indication that the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on December 16, 2004, August 4, 2005 and May 8, 2006, respectively, have been considered.

I. **CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

By the present Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended. Applicants submit that the amendments to claim 1 are supported at least by page 3, lines 6-9, page 8, lines 34-35 and page 9, lines 1-14. The amendments to claims 2 and 3 are supported at least by page 9, lines 11-23, page 19, line 31 – page 20, line 1, page 25, line 31 – page 26, line 1, page 29, lines 27-33 and page 33, line 29 – page 34, line 1. As such, Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1-3 do not introduce any new matter.

II. **CITED ART GROUNDS**

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa et al. (hereinafter ‘Takizawa’), U.S. Patent No. 5,990,227 in view of Taguchi et al. (hereinafter ‘Taguchi’), U.S. Patent No. 7,022,170, claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa in view of Kashiwazaki et al. (hereinafter ‘Kashiwazaki’), U.S. Patent No. 5,439,514, claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soga et al. (hereinafter ‘Soga’), U.S. Patent

Application Publication No. 2002/0049261 in view of Taguchi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

A. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

Amended independent claim 1 recites a water-based inkjet printer ink including a colorant and a resin, which is a block polymer, “wherein said block copolymer is obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers by using at least one aluminum compound selected from the group consisting of tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, and aluminum compounds as Ziegler-Natta catalysts.” Applicants submit that the above features recited in amended independent claim 1 are not taught, or suggested, in the art relied upon by the Examiner.

i. TAGUCHI

Acknowledging the deficiencies of Takizawa and Soga, the Examiner states that “Taguchi et al. teaches that to improve the water solubility of the dye, ink includes aluminum ion in an amount of less than 0.5% by weight (column 4: line 30-50).” Action, pp. 3 and 5.

However, Taguchi teaches that “...a lithium ion is particularly preferred from the viewpoint of improving the water solubility of the dye having a dissociation group.” Taguchi, col. 4, lines 32-36 (emphasis added). Thus, Taguchi teaches a lithium ion, not an aluminum ion (as asserted by the Examiner), for improving the water solubility. Therefore, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the ink composition of Takizawa to include an aluminum compound, as taught by Taguchi, to improve the water solubility of the dye.

Even assuming *arguendo* that Taguchi did teach an aluminum compound for improving the water solubility of the dye (which Applicants disagree with), Applicants

submit that Taguchi fails to teach or suggest that the aluminum compound is tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum or aluminum compounds used as Ziegler-Natta catalysts in a polymerization reaction.

Thus, Taguchi fails to teach or suggest “wherein said block copolymer is obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers by using at least one aluminum compound selected from the group consisting of tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, and aluminum compounds as Ziegler-Natta catalysts” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

ii. KASHIWAZAKI

Again, acknowledging the deficiencies of Takizawa, the Examiner asserts that “Kashiwazaki et al. teaches that to improve the water solubility of the dye, ink includes fine particles[s] of alumina (see Abstract), and the mole ratio of said resin to said aluminum compound is from 1:5 to 10,000:3 (column 4, line 15-40).” Action, p. 4.

However, Applicants submit that Kashiwazaki teaches the use of alumina, not tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum or aluminum compounds used as Ziegler-Natta catalysts.

Thus, Kashiwazaki also fails to teach or suggest “wherein said block copolymer is obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers by using at least one aluminum compound selected from the group consisting of tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, and aluminum compounds as Ziegler-Natta catalysts” as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Taguchi and Kashiwazaki fail to remedy the deficiency of Takizawa, or Soga, with respect to amended independent claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that Takizawa, or Soga, in view Taguchi, or Kashiwazaki, fail to teach or suggest “said block copolymer is obtained by polymerizing vinyl ethers as monomers by using at least one

aluminum compound selected from the group consisting of tripropylaluminum, triisopropylaluminum, and aluminum compounds as Ziegler-Natta catalysts" as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection to independent claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6 and 7 at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-4, 6 and 7 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application; the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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